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9 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
THROUGH: Chief, Geographic Research
SUBJECT: Evaluation of CIA/RR-G-22, Noril'sk

1. The enclosed geographic report assembles and appraises a number of elements that in combination have resulted in the spectacular Arctic urban development of Noril'sk. Although the intelligence community is aware of the ever-increasing Soviet activity in the Arctic, there is a need for detailed studies showing concretely how these efforts affect specific areas. In this respect, the study of Noril'sk is a substantial contribution to the present knowledge of Soviet Arctic developments.

2. The study presents the character and development of the industrial complex of Noril'sk and its immediate environs, and emphasizes the economic and strategic significance of the city to both the region and the USSR as a whole.

3. Enclosed with the report is an excellent urban plan of Noril'sk and its environs. This is the only complete plan of the city available to the intelligence community.

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Acting Chief, Geography Division

Enclosures:

1. CIA/RR-G-22
(Urban Plan of Noril'sk)

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